

Fluor Hanford
MSIN B3-30
P.O. Box 1000
Richland, Washington 99352

Geoff Tyree
Media Relations
509.372.1145 tel
509.376.5704 fax

Judy Connell
Director, Communications
509.376.6808 tel

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News Release

HANFORD SITE SCHEDULES OCTOBER PUBLIC TOURS

Web registration begins at noon, PDT, on Wednesday, September 20

RICHLAND, Wash. – Sept. 13, 2006 – The Department of Energy has scheduled the next round of bus tours of the Hanford Site in southeast Washington State in October.

Within 12 minutes of making web registration available for nine tours offered in July 2006, all 350 available seats were filled. Due to the overwhelming response, those wanting to participate in the October tours are encouraged to sign up online as soon as possible beginning at noon, PDT, on Wednesday, September 20, when web registration opens.

On October 17, 18, and 19, visitors will be driven from Richland, Wash., through the Hanford Site on a route that is designed to follow the process used to produce plutonium for the nation's defense and explain current cleanup efforts, including the following:

- The Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center, where Hanford workers and personnel from local, state, federal, and international organizations receive a variety of training
- Hanford's 300 Area, just north of Richland, where fuel was manufactured for irradiation in Hanford's reactors
- Former Hanford and White Bluffs town sites
- Production reactors along the Columbia River, known as Hanford's 100 Area, where nuclear fuel was irradiated. Activities in that area today are primarily focused on 'cocooning' former reactors and cleaning up waste sites. This portion of the visit will include a walking tour of B Reactor, the world's first large-scale plutonium production reactor.

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- Hanford's central plateau, where irradiated nuclear fuel was processed to recover plutonium.

This is where most of the waste that resulted from processing is located, along with a number of current activities to clean up the waste. The bus will drive through the Waste Treatment Plant construction site, where millions of gallons of tank waste will be immobilized in glass using a technology called vitrification.

All tours will begin and end at the Volpentest HAMMER Training & Education Center, located at 2890 Horn Rapids Road, Richland, Wash. Tours will begin at 7:30 a.m.; 10 a.m.; and 12:30 p.m. on October 17, 18, and 19. The tours are free of charge and will last approximately 4 hours.

Visitors must sign up in advance of the bus tour at the following web page: <http://www5.hanford.gov/public tours/>. Requests to participate will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at noon, PDT, on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2006. After all available tour slots have been filled, interested participants are encouraged to continue to check the web site for available slots, as registered participants may cancel up until 72 hours before a tour.

Tour participants must be U.S. citizens, at least 16 years old, and able to show valid photo identification on the day of the tour. The tour will include a security check before entering the Hanford Site.

For more information on Hanford tours, visit the Department of Energy's Hanford tour web page at: <http://www.hanford.gov/information/sitetours/> .

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Note to media: To cover the tours, contact Geoff Tyree at (509) 372-1145, or geoffrey_t_tyree@rl.gov.

Special arrangements must be made in advance with Hanford Site security to allow cameras and recording devices on a tour (other visitors will not be allowed to bring cameras or recording devices). A limited number of media tour slots are available and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.